

Canberra
Amiga
Users'
Society
Inc



beCAUS
March 1993

Aims of the Society

Canberra Amiga Users Society Incorporated (CAUS) is an independent group (currently with about 250 members) formed for the benefit of people who own, use or are interested in the Commodore Amiga computer.

Benefits

Benefits include a bi-monthly newsletter, monthly meetings, discounts, a bulletin board, Public Domain library, special interest groups (SIGs) and the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with other Amiga users.

Subscriptions

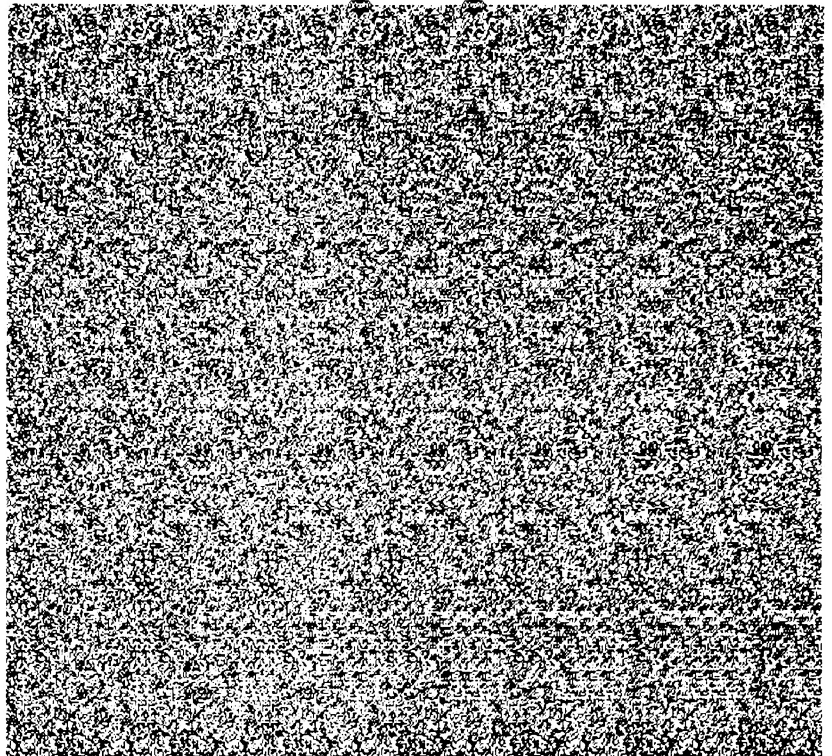
Membership of the Society is available for an annual fee of \$20. This fee may be paid, with a filled-in application form, either at any of the monthly meetings or by mail to the Membership Secretary, PO Box 596, Canberra 2601.

Meetings

Meetings are held at 8 pm on the second Thursday of each month in either the Chifley Room or the auditorium at the Canberra Workers' Club in Childers St, Civic. The dates for the next few meetings are 11 March, 8 April and 13 May 1993.

Details of upcoming meetings and main topics will be advertised in the Computers section of the Canberra Times on the Saturday before each ordinary meeting.

The Beginners' Group runs from 7-8 pm prior to each meeting.



pathway, mountain, steps, B, Aniga

SIRDS

This is apparent chaos of ink is a sirds (Single Image Random Dot Stereogram). To view the image look at the two index dots at the top of the image and focus beyond the page. When you see three dots focus on the middle dot and look around the image.

The typical intelligent Amiga owner will see various 3D images below and above the page. Say WOW!. At top left a pathway, below that some steps leading to a basement above which floats ? What else can you see?

Canberra Amiga Users' Society Inc

CAUS Committee (1992)

Director	Chris Townley	2545922 (h)	6-8pm
Vice Director	Gordon Owtrim	2972692 (h)	6-8pm
Secretary	Tony Hayman	2961894 (h)	7-10pm
Membership Sec.	Berenice Jacobs	2552284 (h)	4-8pm
Treasurer	Terry Sullivan	2545922 (h)	
Committee	Stephen Bourne	2350150 (h)	
	Christopher Cole	2478590 (h)	
	Joe McCully	2552128 (h)	
	Neil Squires	2591128 (h)	
	Loy Winkler		

Special Interest Groups

Each of the following members is coordinating a Special Interest Group (SIG) in the listed topic. If you are interested in joining one of these groups and getting more out of your Amiga, contact them either direct or at the next monthly meeting:

Loy Winkler		Genealogy
Bernie Wiemers	2418739	Amos
Christopher Cole	2478590	Hardware
Matthew Taylor	2515343	Music and Graphics
David Wilson	2918324	Desktop Publishing
Rob Vander Meer	2418480	Video
Andrew Boundy	2916971	CanDo

CAUS Public Domain Collection

The Society's Fred Fish collection of public domain software contains a huge variety of goodies from text editors, databases, communication, graphic and music programs through to utilities, games, disks of pictures and animations and many demonstrations of commercial programs.

The following people are PD librarians:

Simon Tow	Fisher	2888362
Lawrence Coombs	Aranda	2515523
Berenice Jacobs	Scullin	2552284
Bernie Wiemers (AMOS)		2489837

You have the choice of buying the disks or swapping them for some new acceptable NAME brand disk that you own. The copying fee for each disk (except for the FISH catalogue disk) is \$1 to cover the librarian's costs. For those who want other than the Fish collection, Berenice Jacobs holds a large collection of alternate public domain. Contact Berenice for more details.

beCAUS

Contributions

beCAUS is produced bi-monthly. Contributions can be submitted to the Editor via the newsletter area of the bulletin board, at the monthly meetings or to The Editor, PO Box 596, Canberra 2601.

Articles, reviews, comments and graphics are always welcome. The deadline for contributions to the newsletter is the 15th of the month preceding distribution. All contributions should be accompanied by the author's name and contact details. We reserve the right to refuse, disclaim and/or edit contributions.

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Advertising

	First Run	Rerun
Full page	\$40	\$30
Half page	\$30	\$20
Quarter page	\$20	\$10

First Run prices are applicable if the Editor has to format the advertisement.

Production

The Editor for the newsletter was David Wilson. The copy was formatted by the DTP SIG using Professional Page v3 and the masters were printed on a Postscript printer by Desktop Utilities. The offset printing was done by Tuggeranong Print.

New Releases by Mark Trenery

For the world of Amiga, these last few months have seen exciting developments on the hardware front. New models (A4000, A1200), new graphics standards, and (for a change) Commodore releasing long term plans for future Amiga development. How does a high-end chipset with full 24-bit display, built-in DSP (Digital Signal Processor), and SCSI 2 sound? More immediate - A4000 Tower and a laptop Amiga. Well, honestly it depresses me somewhat - what about all the gear I've already shelled out for? How long before it's relegated to the superseded technological scrap heap? Oh well, thankfully my big boxy A2500 can be jam-packed with a few expansion cards to last me through the years.

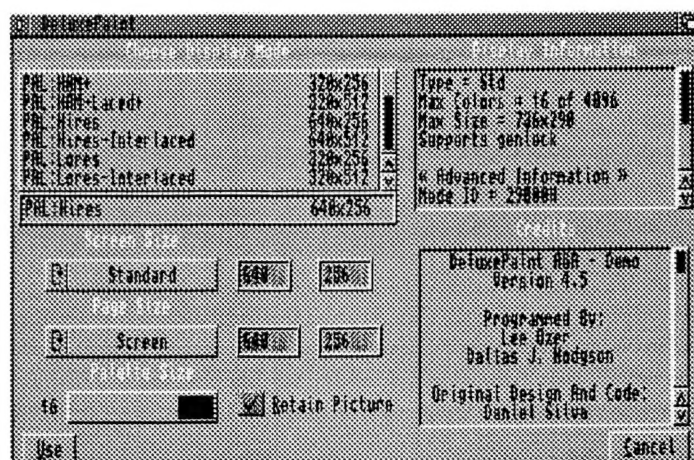
I do recognise though, that it's the only way; otherwise the Amiga will die a slow death. It needs to compete with the ever price slashing Apple Macs, the crop of VGA clones and what of this new Atari Falcon? With 68030 power, graphics co-processor, DSP, 16-bit/8 channel stereo sound @ 50 kHz, up to 14 MB Ram, 640 x 480 256 colour VGA, SCSI 2, MIDI, 1.44 MB floppy. You know, on paper it doesn't sound half bad - aghhh! it's an Atari - you may laugh off the company but what about the product? Sure it needs soft/hardware development but a technologically stagnant Amiga could easily get knocked off the niche market pedestal on which it now happily sits.

Turning back to the Amiga - developers have been busy through the new year with lots of updates and some new stuff. To keep up with the releases read on...

GVP have released & updated **Image-FX** and **CineMorph**. The former is an image processing and editing package with high-end special effects. It incorporates the latter, a morphing package - what's morphing? You should know by now, it is/was the rave in TV bank ads, Michael Jackson video clips and certain US Amiga magazines.

Also from GVP the **A1230** - a 40Mhz 030 accelerator plus RAM expansion for the A1200 Amiga. Hey, an actual hardware product for the A1200 already!

Excellence! from Micro-Systems Software is now at version 3. New looks, time saves, Arexx, grammatical checker, supports ECS hi-res, 8 columns per page, Compugraphic font support, colour postscript. Some say it's slow, although now it accepts up to 170 wpm typing speeds.



Deluxe Paint 4.5 AGA for the new Amigas supports 256 colour and HAM8 (262,000 colours) in any resolution and animates them. Now reads 24-bit IFF files. Requires WB2.04, 2 MB ram and AGA - DPaint 4.1 will still be for resale for non-AGA machines.

SuperBase Personal 4 update released this month seems to cover most users' needs; say 17 Gigabytes of storage per file, 16 million records/file, no limit of files (system dependent) yet will run on a 512K 1 drive system.

Intrigued by Virtual Reality and Cyberspace concepts? My advice - get the latest from Virtual Reality Laboratories, Inc. **Vistapro 3.0**. Using real-world data it creates three-dimensional landscapes. New in v3.0 are 3D trees, improved fractalised clouds and fractal texturing which creates rock surfaces. Waterfalls,

building and roads can be added and there is support for generating left and right images for 3D viewing - should be phenomenal with X-specs 3D glasses whilst viewing 24-bit OpalVision images. Due for release first week in February 1993.

Brilliance from Digital Creations. AGA capable paint software. Modelled on the DCTV paint program. Has 8 brush storage buffers, many gradient fill options and new paint modes (Dither 1&2, Negative etc.) Supposed to be at least twice as fast as DPaint at some functions.

SCSI 2 controllers from ICD are now available for A2000/A2500 & A500 computers. These new standards are **FAST!** screaming along at 10 MB per second synchronous & 5 MB/s asynchronous trans-

fer rates. Full DMA means speed with little CPU slow down. The controller also has 16-bit IDE (AT) harddrive support and up to 8 MB ram.

Freedom Floptical Drive - a SCSI 3.5" floptical disk drive which can Read/write 720K/1.44MB/21 MB 3.5" disks. Comes in external & internal versions. The important consideration is the price - US \$399 or \$419 with a case and power supply plus US \$15 for pp & h. So, an external version plus postage is US \$434 which fluctuates to around AUS \$650 and that includes 5 floptical disks!

Deluxe Music II - rewritten and much improved due for release in March of '93. Sports new user interface (don't they all), ARExx, improved print quality, new public file format also imports old DMCS, SMUS, SMF (standard MIDI) and MSCX (MusicX).

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Autopilot Review part 2

by Andy Blazer

This is Part Two of a two part article regarding a Compuserve Information Service Communications Utility for the Amiga. In the previous issue of beCAUS, I dealt with Setting up AutoPilot, Setting up Forums/Sections and Downloading a File.

Messages

This is probably the most beneficial part of using AutoPilot as you can correspond and make new contacts/friends world-wide with little or no fuss whatsoever.

Once you have your forums/sections set up within AP you can select which particular forums and sections within those forums you would like to send and receive messages from and to.

When retrieving messages the AP user can define via radio buttons whether he/she wants to receive whole messages, headers or no messages at all. There is also a check box "Read Waiting" which can be used in different ways depending upon which message radio buttons are enabled/disabled. For example if "Read Waiting" is selected and "no messages" radio button is enabled then AP will log you into the forum and collect only those messages that are addressed to you, then continue along its defined path. Conversely, if the "Get Headers" radio button and the "Read Waiting" check box are both selected prior to an online session, AP

will log you into the forum and retrieve messages addressed to you in full, while gathering subject headers for any other messages. The message headers can then be viewed later, or if you wish before AP has finished that run. You can for example remain online - while AP is in other forums - view the message headers and select which ones you want AP to retrieve. After AP has finished in another forum it will then re-enter the forum belonging to the Message headers and retrieve them for you. Of course if you want you may also select messages from headers after one session has finished and log on to CIS again to retrieve the message in full.

What to do with Messages once you have them

Upon receiving messages, the letter "M" will be displayed next to the Forum name in an otherwise blank tile. Clicking on this "M" tile will display the messages you have just collected. The message viewing screen will open up over the main screen and will display for example, message 1 of 10. At the bottom of this screen there are 6 tiles as follows:

Skip - Skips all messages with this title and moves to next title
Keep - Saves message to disk
Parent - Will find the Parent or original of this message and present it for you to read
Reply - Splits the screen and lets you

compose a reply to the message displayed in the upper screen

There are also pull down menu functions for the message viewer. With these you can "HOLD" a particular message, so that for example, you don't have enough time to answer it now so you will hold it for later. There are also pull down menu options for searching for messages, printing, releasing a held message, reading a forum newflash and adding messages "To" or "From" fields to the address book. The address book keeps a sorted list of CIS ID numbers and names for easy addressing of messages.

Another option I will mention about messages is the HISTORY file. This feature allows you to keep as much as you wish of the forum's messages online on your computer. This works in conjunction with the PARENT feature discussed earlier. In the case that you get a reply to a message you sent maybe 2 weeks ago, if you have HISTORY selected in your message screen and you click on PARENT, your original message will be displayed. This can be handy when someone has sent a reply to a message from you and has not really indicated what your message was about. e.g. You send a message asking about a feature of a program and someone replies with a different subject with a simple "YES" or "NO" answer. This could be annoying if you weren't able to display the original message you posted.

Other options regarding messages include the capability to send InterNet and Compuserve Fax messages. As I have not used these options I will not discuss them.

AP has a very intuitive interface and some very handy features. E.G. If your message exceeds the CIS defined size limit, AP will automatically split the message with < Continued > at the bottom of the first page and flow it on into the next page.

Miscellaneous Features

A scripting language is included with AP. Because we log on through an alternate Compuserve network called



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FALNET here in Australia the log on procedure is different from our American friends. FALNET demands that after connection C CIS be sent. The scripting language enables you to quickly and easily write up a script file called "Before1" for this very purpose. These script files are similar to AREXX programs, of which AP also supports, with its own special AREXX commands. (Has anyone managed to tame this AREXX beast yet? I haven't). You may also have a script file called "After1". The reasons these script files are numbered is that they correspond to 3 different numbers that AP can dial CIS on. These are mainly for U.S. users as they have different numbers for different modem speeds. As I stated earlier, CIS in Australia is limited to 2400 BPS.

There are a couple of utility programs included with AP that will prune your HISTORY file back to a defined date and clear Pending messages, of which I have not yet mentioned. Basically a letter "P" gets put next to a forum if you have any actions pending for the next call AP makes to CIS. This could be a file download or a message you wish to reply to or send.

Obtaining Autopilot

You can obtain AP from CIS in library 9 of AmigaVendor. Just log on and then enter "GO AMIGAVEND". Alternatively you can obtain it from the CAUS BBS by dialing 253 1170. I will upload the APDEMO.LHA file to the BBS and I will also make the DEMO

version available to the CAUS PD collection.

The DEMO version has certain features disabled but is still very usable. Nothing is missing from the DEMO version that will severely restrict your use.

Once you have the DEMO version of AP you can upgrade to the fully registered version via SWREG on CIS. This is an online software registration service on CIS. Basically after you use SWREG, what's called an "electronic bullet" will be sent to AP via CIS E-Mail, upgrading your demo version to a fully registered and functioning version. The cost of upgrading is US\$ 69.95 and will be included on your next CIS bill. I believe this to be a very reasonable asking price for a program that will eventually save you many dollars. Full details of registering can be found in the APDEMO.LHA file.

Documentation

The documentation for AutoPilot is included with the APDEMO.LHA file or you can download it from Library 9 of AmigaVendor once you have a catalog of that Forum. There are various instruction documents you can download. These are as of writing this article:

APDOCS.LHA - Complete manual for AUTOPILOT, both registered and demo versions.

APDOCS.ASC - Complete manual with no formatting for importing into your favourite WP package.

The first archive, APDOCS.LHA, contains a file called APDOCS.prm that may be sent straight to your printer via the CLI and will be formatted so the Table of Contents and Index correspond to the correct page numbers if you have your printer setup to match.

Upgrades

I have only been using AP for approximately 2 months and already an upgrade has been made available. This was made available in the AutoPilot library of AmigaVendor and included a transfer program to patch V1.0 to V1.01. This upgrade fixed a few very minor bugs and was FREE. I can only describe the technical support and upgrade policies for this program as excellent. I only wish larger Amiga software developers were this good.

Overview/Conclusion

In my view and after putting AP thoroughly through its paces, I have come to the conclusion that it is indeed an excellent program. For a first release program it had hardly any bugs and delivered on what it offered. Help is available from the author of AP or from any of the hundreds of happy users who will gladly jump in and answer your questions. If you read the supplied documentation you should find it extremely easy to both set up and use. If anyone has any questions or problems that I may be able to help with please phone me on (06) 292-7139.

This is one program that makes me happy to be an Amiga user.

Help Service

The following is a list of members who have volunteered to share their knowledge and experience with other members. If you have a problem or just need a bit of advice in any of the areas listed, please ring during the hours shown.

what's happening	Paul Martin	10-10 M-Su	2532121
general help	Joe McCully	6-12 pm M-Su	2552128
	Gordon Owtrim	7-10 pm M-Su	2972692
	Neil Squires	7-10 pm M-F 10-9 Sa-Su	2591128
hard disks, Digiview	Simon Tow	6-7 pm M-F	2888362
laser printing, desktop publishing	Frank Keighley	6-7 pm M-F	2396658
desktop video	Robert Vander Meer	6-8 pm M-F	2417113
beginners AmigaDOS	Colin Vance	6-8 pm M-Su	2511087
Superbase Wordperfect	Andrew Boundy	8-10pm M-Th	2916971
Modula-2	James Dempsey	7-10 pm M-F	2922145

Crafty Arts: Tools of the Trade

by Leigh Murray

I'm no artist, possessing little artistic skill and zero artistic training. But with the Amiga, a few software and hardware tools, and some clip art from the public domain, I manage to turn out some arty projects that give delight to many friends and relatives. And I have a lot of fun doing this. The Amiga has brought out mini creative instincts I didn't know I had. The arty tools I use include DeluxePhotoLab (a 3-in-1 package of paint, image-processing and printing programs), an Easy1500 graphics tablet, and a Xerox 4020 inkjet printer.

There are absolutely oodles of arty tasks at which the Amiga excels without needing a computer-bound Picasso attached. I design icons for my own use and for others, I illustrate most letters with an appropriate picture or two (Aussie wildlife and flowers, animals etc), I make all the greeting cards I send, and I'm currently playing with HyperBook to draw location maps for all the unusual native plants I grow (I forget their names and lose their labels with monotonous regularity; I'm left enthusing over the beauty of Grevillea Whatsitsname).

My Use of Deluxe PhotoLab

I reviewed this package in the Feb 92 BeCAUS, so I won't repeat that here. I've used PhotoLab a great deal in the past year, for making cards and icons, and fidgeting with clip-art. My opinion hasn't changed since I wrote the review (PhotoLab's great!). But I've done quite a lot of simple image-processing, so now I have more experience in that area.

I find Colors, the image-processing portion of DeluxePhotoLab, particularly useful for converting art between formats. Clip-art often comes in Hi-Res, either Interlaced or Non-Interlaced, and I use Colors to convert it to Lo-Res Non-Interlaced, a format which is quite adequate for small pictures that are to be included in letters or cards.

I also often use Colors in the preparation of icons, to resize a picture accurately, swap the colour registers to match Workbench colour mapping, or convert clip-art to the Hi-Res Non-Interlaced 2-bitplane format used in icons. The swap colour registers feature is very useful, allowing a picture which has, for instance, colour 0 black, colour 1 blue, colour 2 orange and colour 3 white to be remapped - without changing the colours of the picture - to the standard Workbench 1.3 colours of blue, white, black and orange in colours 0 to 3 respectively.

If I don't know the resolution of a picture, then I just load it into Colors; the program will select the correct graphics mode, and all the details can be easily displayed.

Other Image-Processors

Image-processors form perfect team-mates with Paint programs; both types of software are needed to utilise fully the power of computer art. There are many image-processors available for the Amiga. Colors is an example of one of the older programs; new, fancier models are coming out all the time, especially for the 24-bit, morph-mad market.

Colors performs the same sorts of image-processing tasks (although probably at a more elementary level) as The Art Department, Butcher and PIX-mate; all four are excellent (though older) programs. There is also Image-Lab, a shareware program (it comes on Fish 452), which has received good reviews.

I have seen rave reviews of PIXmate, and it still seems to be available for around \$90 (about the same price as PhotoLab). Many of its algorithms were developed for NASA to use in converting space pictures, and it is an

extremely powerful image-processor with many functions for filtering and edge-enhancement. Over 3000 special effects are built into the program. Old but good, it sounds like fun.

The Art Department, a top-notch product in its heyday, has now been superseded by a much bigger package called The Art Department Professional (usually referred to as ADPro); the older version would still be an excellent buy (if it can be found) for those needing a smaller and simpler program. One of its strengths is that it converts all image data to 24-bit when performing calculations, to produce better conversion results.

ADPro will convert pictures originally created on other computers (such as IBMs or Macs); the other image-processors handle only Amiga IFF images as far as I am aware. ADPro handles 24-bit stuff too and, with its latest version, one can also achieve all sorts of weird morphing effects. But ADPro needs a minimum of 3MB RAM to run, much prefers at least 5MB, and costs a bomb.

DeluxePhotoLab Colors has proven perfectly adequate for my simple needs: it is a cheap, reliable and easy to use image-processor.

Graphics Tablets

A graphics tablet provides a large flat drawing surface on which you can draw or trace, using a pencil or electronic stylus rather than wielding an unwieldy mouse on a mouse pad (this is not an intuitive drawing tool). The drawing area represents the screen; as you draw on the tablet, the image appears on the Amiga screen. Most graphic tablets come with a special stylus or puck with which you do the drawing; an exception is the EASYL, which requires only an ordinary soft pencil. The tablets are designed to be placed on a desk or balanced on your knee like a tray.



These devices are often used in Computer Aided Design (CAD) for input of technical drawings, but they can also be used for drawing or tracing outlines of pictures. They are not cheap, costing hundreds of dollars new.

EASYL500 Graphics Tablet

This is an old but still terrific device, no longer manufactured; I bought mine second-hand. It has given me a wonderful way of easily cobbling together small pictures for use in letters or greeting cards.

The EASYL consists of a large (8.5 inch by 13 inch, or 215mm by 330mm), rectangular, pressure-sensitive drawing surface. A piece of paper is placed on top of the drawing surface, and the drawing (or tracing) is made with a pencil, pressing firmly on the paper. The EASYL comes with its own driver software, which is easy to install and use (and even caters for left-handed users). My system has been set up so the driver software is activated as part of the startup-sequence. When I want to use the EASYL, I simply load up my Paint program, select the continuous drawing tool, and draw on paper on top of the EASYL. It really is very easy to use.

Most graphics tablets connect to the Amiga's serial port. The EASYL500, however, connects to the expansion bus on the side of the Amiga 500. It uses the Amiga power supply and has a pass-through connector which allows connection of another device on the expansion bus. On my system, a super-duper GVP hard drive (ah, the speed!, the bliss!) is attached via the EASYL pass-through. The EASYL connector adds about an extra inch to the width of the whole Amiga set-up, and is shaped to fit neatly and stylishly.

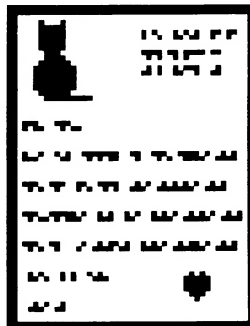
Before buying the GVP, we tried hard to find out whether the GVP and the EASYL were compatible; no one could tell us, including the Australian distributors of both the GVP and the EASYL. Finally a CAUS member offered to let us try the EASYL with his GVP, a much-appreciated and very kind offer. It worked fine. The con-

nection process on our Amiga was trying, to put it mildly (#?!), as the positioning of the EASYL proved critical and somewhat touchy. But the whole combo works fine, and both the GVP and the EASYL are a joy to use.

Other Input Devices

There are other graphics tablets on the market, along with scanners (for inputting already-created pictures) and digitisers (which let you digitise directly from a VCR camera or paused VCR image). All of these can make picture-creation an easier process; they certainly beat trying to draw with a mouse. None, however, are cheap devices, usually costing a few hundred dollars or more.

Digi-View (a hardware/software package) can provide top-quality digitised pictures from photos. For this you need Digi-View plus a video camera; a black and white camera generally gives better results than a colour one, even for colour pictures. I had some photos digitised via this method by CAUS, and a couple of the pictures turned out stunners.



Xerox 4020 Colour Inkjet

The Xerox 4020, though long in the tooth now, is still a great printer. It uses four ink cartridges (black, cyan, magenta and yellow) to print seven distinct colours and many different shades by combining the colours.

The Xerox 4020 does superb colour prints of pictures, and the built-in printer fonts (non-proportional) look fine for text-only prints. But its text printing when using graphics-mode prints from letters (Pen Pal or ProWrite) is best described as adequate, mainly because the Xerox's resolution is not high by today's standards and the bitmapped fonts are full of jaggies anyway. The Xerox has a printed resolution of 120 by 120 dots per inch in draft mode (with a pseudo 240 by 240 mode for NLQ), whereas 360 by 360 is now quite common (in

the Canon Bubblejets, for instance), and some of the baby laser printers around these days have up to 600 dots per inch resolution.

I've had to experiment with colour printing, because a colour is not necessarily printed as you see it on the screen; the main difference is that many colours look darker when they are printed. And I have had to select carefully the fonts I use in Pen Pal or Paint programs; very thin fonts generally print poorly, as the verticals of some letters look thicker than those of others.

Other Inkjet Printers

I haven't seen printouts from any other inkjets, so I can only summarise opinions from reviews I've read. While the Xerox 4020 does great colour printing, the Hewlett Packard Paintjet reportedly produces colour prints with a grainy appearance. The latest Hewlett Packard, the DeskJet 500C (the C is for colour, it also comes in black-and-white, minus the C), does produce excellent colour prints (with 300 dots per inch resolution). And the Canon Bubblejets do great black and white prints. Always check printout samples before buying a printer.

Drivers and Consumables

With some of the fancier printers, Amiga printer drivers have not been readily available; this hasn't been a problem with the Xerox. I've been quite happy with the standard driver, which came as part of Workbench 1.3.

Inkjet printers have one significant drawback: expensive consumables. With inkjet printers, ink cartridges need fairly frequent replacement, and some (not the Xerox) have print heads as part of the replaceable cartridge, adding to the cartridge cost. The Xerox also needs occasional replacement of what is called a maintenance cartridge, at about \$40 a pop. Many inkjets, including the Xerox, require specially-coated (and more expensive) paper; I tried printing on ordinary paper, and the inks smudged.

New Releases

cont. from p3

SuperJAM! 1.1 from Blue Ribbon SoundWorks. Improved ease of composing melodies and chords, improved look and feel & WB2.0 support.

AmigaVision Professional authoring system, now supports AGA graphics. Full support for CDTV, speed & memory improvements and a redistributable module player is included for playback without AmigaVision.

Professional Page 4.0. Now can show bitmap images in 256 colours on AGA machines, includes a free hot-linked graphics editor, imports GIF, TIF, PCX, BMP and EPS formats. EPSF files from Adobe Illustrator and Aldus Freehand can be imported and edited with PDraw 3.0. Supports 15 wordprocessor text import filters.

HyperCache Professional - a media caching system, bringing the filesystem performance up to workstation levels. Works with - SCSI HD, IDE HD, ST-506, floppies, CD-ROM (CDTV), SCSI tape backup units among others. States that it reads data before it is requested so even the first-time read is fast.

Proper Grammar V2 update from Softwood - A grammar correction system to analyze writing and correct errors in syntax, usage, punctuation, spelling, and style. Loads and saves many popular wp formats.

FontDesigner - software for the creation and conversion of any font. Supports: Postscript Adobe Type 1 or 3; AGFA-Compugraphic; Metric formats (Adobe, PStream, PPage etc.).

Maxis releases **A-Train** for Amiga computers. A-Train has consistently charted in the top-ten lists since being released in May 1992 for MS-DOS platforms. Sort of a SimCity for railroads. Apparently a huge hit in Japan selling over 100,000 copies!

Crafty Arts

cont. from p7

Inkjet printers definitely cost more to run than do their common-or-garden cousins, the dot-matrixes. But dot-matrix colour ribbons supposedly wear out quickly and then give poor quality output, whereas with inkjets the quality is consistently high. And inkjet printers are much quieter to run.

Before buying a printer, it is important to decide how much colour printing you want to do, and whether the extra cost is worth all that glowing technicolour. I have never regretted buying the Xerox (but I wouldn't have paid a small fortune for it either!).

Compatibility with Workbench 2
DeluxePhotoLab works fine with


Workbench 2. The only section I haven't tried under Workbench 2 is Posters, the printing program. But I have given the rest of the package a fairly good workout, using all display modes except Extra Half-Brite, and many of the Colors functions. The Xerox 4020 hasn't yet been tried with Workbench 2, but I don't expect any problem. And the EASYL, which is quite an elderly design now, has been reported as not working with Workbench 2; I plan to get a ROM switcher so I can continue to use it with Workbench 1.3 (and play Workbench 1.3-only games, including such favourites of mine as Logical and Solitaire Royale).

Why Don't You Be Crafty Too!

I have great fun with these products.

Why not try a few crafty arts yourself?

C W C

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Public Domain Corner

KingFisher by Mark Trenery

The increasing size of the Fred Fish public domain collection has seen a proliferation of dedicated Fish disk databases. Of the ones I've tinkered with (Hook Line & Sinker, KingFisher and Aquarium), KingFisher has been the easiest to set-up and use. It's also fast at searches and can operate on 512K ram, floppy based systems, yet in it's latest version (1.15) maintains disks from 1 - 800. I was always slightly intimidated by the warnings and cautions about doing your own updates to the Aquarium database "Be careful, this could seriously stuff your fish database", and relied on getting the update files from BBS's etc. In contrast, KingFisher can be updated using fish disk content files, Usenet posting, or email content files. Basically any extraneous text in the listing is ignored and just the important content information is added.

Other features include the ability to follow links to older and newer versions of programs and output straight ascii text listings of fish contents. Up to eight "bookmarks" can be set with individual ranges and positions in the database - handy to rapidly go from one unrelated entry to another for comparison etc. A copy of a name index is put into memory so that a search for a program name is fast. KingFisher is easy to use and configurable, compatible with accelerated Amigas and KS 1.3 and 2.04. Providing the Fish pond doesn't dry up, this program is invaluable to FF PD connoisseurs.

Kingfisher v1.15 is on Fish disk 808.

An Urgent Appeal from Fred Fish

Over the last couple of years, I've noticed a trend where fewer and fewer people are on my direct subscriber list. This last year has seen a particularly sharp decrease, from about an average of 75 subscribers to the current low of 41. That's right, there are only 41 people or organizations in the whole world that receive disks directly from me as of Jan 17, 1993.

During this last year, the amount of time I have had available to spend managing the library has also dropped sharply, so that more than ever I depend upon using outside help. I cannot expect these people to work for nothing, so I have been paying them reasonable compensation for their time out of the ever dwindling subscription income. It has reached the point where sometime in the next month or two I will make a decision about whether or not to shut down the library.

If you are in a position to influence a club, computer store, or other Amiga related organization to maintain a direct subscription for new disks, and thus help fund continued maintenance of the library, and are interested in seeing the library continue to grow, I'd urge you to consider doing what you can to help push the number of direct subscribers back up to more reasonable levels. Thanks.-Fred

Fred Fish, 1835 E. Belmont Drive, Tempe, AZ 85284, USA

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MORE CDTV by Simon Tow

This is a follow up article on CDTV titles and other bits for the CDTV.

The down side first (I always give the bad news before the good)

I bought the CDTV as a CDROM reader and a potential A500 alternative for the kids to play on. So, I purchased a standard external disk drive and keyboard to allow the CDTV to be started up as an AMIGA. This works beautifully with standard Workbench disks but unfortunately does not work with a large percentage of the games that do not use the Workbench. Instead of the game starting up regularly, the CDTV goes into a white-screen / grey-screen / look-at-the-disk / wait / white-screen cycle. I don't know yet whether it is due to lack of memory (unlikely) or conflict with the CDTV drivers or This means that if you already have a set of games for the AMIGA, don't go and replace your AMIGA 500 etc with a CDTV. A lot of the popular games have already been ported to CD - some have even been enhanced to take into account the extra storage on the CD. This works well for copy protection as it will be more difficult to copy - especially for the ones that ONLY work on the CDTV and cannot be run on a PARNET attached AMIGA.

The other problem to do with games is the controls. I had a winge about the infrared remote control in the previous article. I can't see why, with the technology available, that some infrared remote controls work so poorly compared to others. I have a cheap CD player that has a brilliant remote control. The CDTV control, however, needs fresh batteries, short distance and accurate aiming to work most of the time. So, together with the unreliable transmission/receival of the remote control signal and the slight delay due to the way the signal is sent, games that need fast and responsive action become unplayable.

A trackball will fix some of these problems. The trackball has the same functions as the remote control, but in-

stead of the arrow keys to control mouse and joystick movement, there is the trackball (a mouse on its back) and 2 joystick ports on the back of the trackball controller. Note that the joystick ports are for joysticks, a mouse plugged into joystick port 1 will NOT take over from the trackball. I am still hoping for 3rd party devices that will get around some of the shortcomings.

Onto the better bits.

Rob Wilkins of CARINA SOFTWARE lent me a number of CDTV titles to look at when I purchased the CDTV. Being able to appraise the titles without buying was very useful (thanks again Rob). I can imagine the frustration of buying titles that look good, only to find that they are not what you were looking for. I should state here that I am very critical of user interfaces in programs. They should be intuitive where possible. I usually reject programs that make things difficult or tedious where they don't need to be. As a consequence, many of the CDTV titles were rejected. The user interfaces (the way you get around in the program) were usually inconsistent and quite touchy - there were a number of times when I spent 20 seconds or so toggling backwards and forwards past the item I wanted to select before landing on it. Anyway, I ending up with one title out of 10 - MIND RUN by Crealude.

This title suffers from the user interface problems mentioned earlier, and it defaults to speaking in French (rather than using the language identified in the CDTV preferences), but was a very interesting title. The title is sort of like dynamic intelligence test puzzles, but more interesting because they are put into a game format. The game areas are Memory, Sounds, Stress and Reflexes. The kids spent a long time playing it, which was interesting as it is not the usual shoot-them-up type game. The title uses around 14 Megabytes on the CD, which is a much better utilisation of the CD than the ported game titles

which generally only use 700 Kilo-bytes out of the 600 Megabytes that the CD is capable of holding. Unfortunately the title would not run via PARNET as it has a test to see if it is being run from CDTV (it may be possible to get it to run via PARNET - I haven't tried too hard).

What about the titles that were provided with the CDTV.

The VISTA ATLAS and SIMCITY were provided with the CDTV. SIMCITY has had some good reviews in its time and is still an interesting game. The game has been modified to accept the CDTV type input and is able to write out the current status of the game to either floppy disk or memory card. It works via PARNET but requires a reboot to get out of the program. The VISTA Atlas is a good demonstration of multimedia, having information on the different countries of the world in the form of maps (it doesn't zoom down to the Canberra map but does have a Sydney map), Flags, photographs, examples of the ethnic language and music, and other geographic statistics. Unfortunately like all Atlas' it has dated VERY quickly due to the changes currently occurring in Europe. It is also like the normal book reference materials in that it is perused with interest when first purchased, but is not used from that point unless an appropriate question is raised.

CDPD

I am currently not using the CDTV very much as I am still waiting to get a CD of the Fred Fish Public Domain collection. There is a compressed and uncompressed form of this disk, which are updated with each 100 disk. The uncompressed disk is updated on the 100 (I'm waiting for the uncompressed 1-800 CD), and the compressed disk is updated on the 50 (compressed CD 1-750 is available now). Also available from another source (Don Quixote Software) is a series of CDPD titles and others. The Fine Art CD was shown at the last meeting as part of the demonstration of having an AMIGA and the CDTV talking together. Our Ex Director - Jeff

Wilson has been looking at CDPD-2 - a CD that contains parts of PD collections including the Fred Fish collection between 650 and 750. It could be a full time occupation looking through these disks.

The other disk I have just read about the THE DEMO COLLECTION CD. Apparently there is one main demo and a HUGE amount of PD in the form of animations, fonts, clip art, demos of commercial programs, games, utilities, sound samples The amount of information on these CD is HUGE. I am hoping that the attached disk/s on some of the AMIGA magazines becomes an attached CD at some stage.

For my next article I am hoping to put the GENLOCK card and the Trackball for the CDTV through their paces. All I have to do is convince my brother that he doesn't need them for a couple of weeks.

What's Happening?

Upcoming Meetings

- March - digitising
- April - AGM
- May - manipulation of video
- morphing
- June - manipulation of sound

Bulletin Board

Our Sysop Stephen White and the CAUS Bulletin Board have new 'phone numbers due to a move south. Stephen's 'phone number is now 294 2695 and the BBS can be called on 294 2702.

CAUS Editor

This will be my last newsletter as Editor. I have held the position since 1989 and it's about time that somebody else had the opportunity to put their ideas re the magazine into practice.

If anyone is interested in desktop publishing, producing a newsletter is the best way to learn all aspects of the publishing process from cadging arti-

cles, fitting all the bits and pieces into a reasonable layout and meeting deadlines.

I have received help but only from a small number of members. The quality of the articles appearing in beCAUS is equal to that in any Amiga magazine (including most commercial ones) but authors need to be fostered if beCAUS is to continue. Beware apathy!

I would also like to thank the members who help collate the magazine and ensure it gets out on time. Their names usually don't appear in the mag - Colin Vance, Steve Knight, Doug Stone, David Virgo, Clinton Sleath, Andy Blazer, Jo Gardner, Andy Russo, Peter Buscombe and Mark Trenery. Collating isn't the most glamorous job but the friendly chatter and the chocolate cake help!

David Wilson Editor

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AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Canberra Amiga Users' Society Inc. will be held on 8 April 1993 in the auditorium of the Canberra Workers' Club, Childers Street, Civic, commencing at 8 pm.

The election of the incoming Committee and Chairperson will be held. All positions fall vacant.

The positions for election are: **President,
Vice-President,
Treasurer,
Secretary,
Membership Secretary,
Editor,
Ordinary Committee Members (3), and
Chairperson.**

Nature of business:

1. Confirm the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.
2. Confirm the minutes of the last General Meeting.
3. Receive from the Committee reports on the activities of the Society during the preceding year.
4. Elect members of the Committee and the Chairperson.
5. Receive and consider the Annual Financial Report of the Society and the Auditor's Statement.

Nominations for positions on the Committee and the Chairperson are to be made in writing as set out below and must be delivered to the Secretary prior to 8 pm on Thursday 1 April 1993.

If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies on the Committee and the position of Chairperson, the candidates nominated shall be deemed to be elected and further nominations shall be received at the AGM for the remaining vacancies only.

Members are entitled to vote by proxy. A notice appointing the proxy shall be in the form a letter giving details of the person giving the proxy and the person authorised to exercise that proxy. The notice must be given to the Secretary prior to 7.30 pm on Thursday 8 April 1993.

Please note: Only financial members are entitled to vote. All membership transactions must be completed prior to 7.45 pm on the night of the AGM.

Nomination Form	
I,	being a financial member of CAUS hereby
(please print)	
nominate for the position of	
(please print)	(please print)
Signature	Date
I, being a financial member of CAUS second	
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the above nomination.	
Signature	Date
I, being a financial member of CAUS accept	
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